

MICHIGAN'S URBAN AGENDA

It is no secret that all of Michigan has been impacted by changes in the global marketplace. Our manufacturing sector, particularly the domestic auto industry, faces serious challenges. These difficulties have hit our cities especially hard.

Despite unprecedented budget constraints, an often hostile Republican legislature, and a federal government that has ignored the plight of urban America, Governor Granholm has developed a strong urban agenda that combines the resources of state government with the strength of community-based organizations to help reduce urban poverty and redevelop and revitalize Michigan's cities.

Governor Granholm's urban agenda is part of her comprehensive **Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow** plan to grow Michigan's economy. It has been built around two centerpiece initiatives called **Cities of Promise** and **Cool Cities**. In addition to these signature programs, Governor Granholm continues to fight to improve urban education, public safety, health care for urban residents, and our transportation infrastructure.

CITIES OF PROMISE

This innovative program requires all state agencies and departments to work together to strategically and collaboratively focus resources in eight core cities. The initiative is locally driven, with a city's highest priorities being identified, addressed, and expedited by the community, working with the Governor's cabinet. The initiative is a five-year plan that will continue to focus on improving safety and security of residents, making housing affordable, reducing crime rates, increasing educational achievement, reducing poverty rates, improving infrastructure, and creating cultural opportunities. Since launching the Cities of Promise, the collaboration between state government and local communities has produced impressive results.

Highlights include:

- Harbor Shores Community Redevelopment project, a \$550 million, mixed-use land development in Benton Harbor which will transform Southwest Michigan. It features new residential units, an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus signature golf course, marinas, an indoor waterpark, greenspace, and office and retail space. Job training will be provided for Benton Harbor residents to prepare them for the jobs produced by the Harbor Shores project.
- The Bagley Housing Association project in Detroit has generated over \$50 million in redevelopment. Improvements include new affordable housing units, owner-occupied rehabilitation, significant infrastructure improvements, and park beautification and renovation projects.

- A \$3 million project to rehabilitate two vacant, blighted buildings in downtown Flint. The completed project will include a first floor restaurant. The renovation of Flint's downtown Capitol Theater is also an ongoing priority.
- In Hamtramck, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) helped enhance a \$500,000 bike trail.
- Demolition of properties in Highland Park that are beyond repair. Efforts will enhance property values, reduce crime and augment safety. New home ownership rehabilitation programs are tailored to address low property values. New homebuyer programs will increase home ownership in Highland Park.
- Rehabilitation and reopening of Highland Park's historical McGregor Library, which has been closed due to tough economic times.
- Assistance from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in cleanup efforts of the Muskegon Heights waste water treatment facility.
- Assisting the cities of Detroit, Pontiac and Saginaw with securing summer jobs for youth through several state agencies.
- Fulfilling Executive Directive 2003-33 by locating state offices and facilities in urban areas including Pontiac, Detroit and Saginaw to stimulate revitalization and investment, make optimum use of existing infrastructure, facilitate access to government services and decrease sprawl.
- Worked to support the Habitat for Humanity Jimmy Carter Work Project in Benton Harbor for 30 affordable homes.
- A Coca-Cola Distribution Center, representing a \$12 million new construction investment in Highland Park, adding 356 new jobs. Coca-Cola is the first Fortune 500 employer to locate in Highland Park since the Chrysler Corporation relocated.
- A \$20 million investment in Highland Park's Steven/Candler Subdivision, the first new multiple single unit housing built in the city in over 50 years.
- A \$1 million investment in the expansion of the Highland Park Medical Clinic.
- Launch of the Employer Assisted Housing Program, a partnership between the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and employers that assists families and individuals in purchasing homes.
- MSHDA's assistance in providing financial and technical assistance through public and private partnerships to create and preserve decent, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income Michigan residents.

- MDOT worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the outer harbor and navigational channel to permit access for larger boats, boost commerce, and increase tourism in Benton Harbor.
- Summer Training and Enrichment Program (STEP), a summer pilot internship program conducted by the Department of Human Services (DHS) in a collaborative effort with the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. STEP provided over 100 Wayne County youth who aged out of the foster care system with critical career connections and skills.

COOL CITIES

In 2003, Governor Granholm launched her successful and innovative Cool Cities initiative, designed to grow and revitalize our communities. The goal of the initiative is to promote vibrant cities that will entice people to live, work and play here in Michigan. Michigan's economic success is directly tied to our ability to attract and retain jobs and people. Thus, the Cool Cities initiative allows Michigan to invest in and build a strong quality of place, grow our talent, nurture entrepreneurial spirits, embrace diversity, and bring people together to collaborate for the greater good of the community.

A Cool Cities award designation brings with it funding (a \$100,000 flexible grant) and a variety of "tool box" items to help Michigan cities and neighborhoods with implementing their projects. The program has received national recognition. Governor Granholm will continue the Cool Cities program as an important tool to build cities where our young people want to live, where artists and entrepreneurs start businesses, where restaurants and outdoor markets thrive, and where people from the surrounding communities come to restaurants, outdoor cafes, and community festivals.

Highlights include:

- Since its inception, there have been nearly 50 Cool Cities Neighborhoods in Progress Awards and over 100 Cool Cities Neighborhood Awards made to create vibrant cities throughout Michigan, including Detroit, Saginaw, Grand Rapids and Flint.
- A Cool Cities award to the Jefferson East Business Association in Detroit helped redevelop three dilapidated buildings into entertainment and technology incubators, with residential loft apartments, a TV production studio, and retail and food service establishments.
- The Southwest Detroit Business Association was awarded funding for its Odd Fellows Hall renovation project, which serves as a key anchor in this large multicultural area.

- A Cool Cities award helped to restore the exterior of the Republic Bank Building in downtown Flint. This mixed-use project has spurred other investment downtown.
- Two Grand Rapids projects – the Avenue for the Arts and Uptown Revitalization – have experienced a great deal of growth in their respective neighborhoods and have been praised nationally.
- The 23 projects selected as 2006 Cool Cities designees are predicted to result in the creation of 456 full-time and 11 part-time jobs.

IMPROVING URBAN SCHOOLS

While she seeks to improve K-12 education throughout Michigan, Governor Granholm has worked to give Michigan's urban school districts new tools to help at-risk children meet our new high academic standards. She will continue to make schools that are struggling to reach the goals established by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) her 'high priority schools.'

Highlights include:

- The Governor has targeted urban school districts through improved human service delivery to low income families and school improvement efforts led through the Department of Education, including concentrated use of federal NCLB funding.
- The Governor has increased funding to address the fiscal problems that result from declining enrollment, a key challenge facing urban school districts.
- She has encouraged the deployment of small high schools in urban school districts, persuaded Apple Computer to locate a unique digital high school in Detroit, and won funding to create small high schools designed to prepare students for careers in health care fields.
- The Governor spurred the creation of 'Family Resource Centers,' which are in-school DHS offices that help provide food, clothing, shelter assistance, and evaluation of family needs.

MAKING OUR CITIES SAFE PLACES TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

Despite having cut more from Michigan's state budget than any governor before her to resolve \$4 billion in budget deficits, Governor Granholm has fought hard to keep Michigan families safe. Under her administration, more than 2,000 fugitive felons have been apprehended, and a zero tolerance policy was implemented for parolees found carrying a weapon. Governor Granholm started the most aggressive effort in the country to reduce crime by parolees through her prisoner re-entry initiative. Governor Granholm also demanded background checks to keep dangerous people away from Michigan's

schoolchildren and seniors in nursing homes. She is fighting for tough new penalties for anyone who commits a drive-by shooting, and signed legislation creating an Internet “do not call” list for parents who want to keep inappropriate material out of their children’s email boxes. She has directed that parole officers be trained to track sex offenders who target children on social networking websites like www.myspace.com. She also worked to fund a recruitment and training program to increase the number of Michigan State Police troopers.

Governor Granholm will continue to partner with federal and local law enforcement to focus on violent gun crimes in urban areas by directing technology and resources to find and arrest violent offenders. The State Police is working with local law enforcement to coordinate resources so that tax dollars are spent most efficiently. Michigan was recently named in the top 15 percent of states in terms of homeland security preparedness.

Governor Granholm has directed the State Police and the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) to provide all available resources possible to help cities across the state improve public safety. As a result, cities can use State Police resources such as canine teams, emergency support teams, underwater recovery unit, aviation assets, forensic laboratories, and bomb squads to fight crime. The MDOC is assisting cities with fugitive apprehension, monitoring of parolees, and working with local courts and prosecutors to protect the public.

Highlights include:

- The Michigan State Police leads coordinated sweeps of fugitive parolees with the MDOC and federal and local law enforcement officials under Operation S.A.F.E. (Statewide Apprehension of Fugitives Effort) Streets. Operations SAFE Streets has resulted in the arrests of more than 2,000 parolees and fugitives.
- The State Police works with city police departments and sheriffs’ departments to form multi-agency investigative teams to resolve backlogs of violent crimes.
- The State Police developed and coordinates the Michigan Youth Leadership Academy (MYLA), helping at-risk teens build more positive and productive futures by allowing them to work alongside law enforcement officers.
- Implementing a zero tolerance policy for parolees who are found in possession of guns to help curb gun violence.
- Provide state resources to help take thousands of criminals off the streets of Detroit, resulting in the arrests of more than 4,700 criminals.
- The State Police’s Second District Special Investigation Division is engaged in a multitude of regional initiatives in the Detroit area. Those initiatives include regional task forces, violent crime task forces, auto theft teams, border security, traffic and criminal patrols, including Project Safe Neighborhoods.

LOWER INSURANCE RATES

Governor Granholm has long been committed to giving citizens access to affordable insurance, regardless of where they live. As Attorney General, she conducted a study that found premiums for auto insurance in Detroit were between 228.6 percent and 481.4 percent higher than those in Fresno, California and Phoenix, Arizona – cities that had more auto thefts per capita than Detroit. The study also compared Detroit to its bordering suburban cities and found an average difference in insurance costs of nearly 30 percent. Something is wrong when citizens have to pay thousands of dollars more for insurance just because they live in Detroit or Flint.

Highlights include:

- Governor Granholm unveiled the Insurance Pooling Initiative. Auto-Owners Insurance has agreed to reduce home and personal automobile rates for eligible members of the Metro Detroit Quality of Life Improvement and the Flint Unification for Urban Equality organizations. Residents with good driving and homeownership records who join these organizations are able to purchase insurance policies through local Auto-Owners agents at a 10 percent discount.
- In 2004, the Governor banned the use of a consumer's credit score by insurance companies in determining insurance rates.
- In 2005, the Governor introduced a comprehensive insurance reform package that included a 20 percent rate roll back for all customers.

IMPROVING URBAN HEALTH CARE

Governor Granholm has been a leader in the fight for the health and well-being of Michigan's families. She has fought for quality health care for Michigan citizens and has launched several programs to address health issues in our cities.

Highlights include:

- In just three years, the Granholm administration has extended affordable prescription drug coverage and health care coverage to more than 292,000 Michigan citizens.
- The Michigan First Healthcare Plan, a revolutionary new health care proposal to provide universal access to affordable health care to every Michigan citizen. This plan will make affordable private health care plans available to small business employees, the self-employed, and the working poor, all of whom lack access to traditional employer-based health insurance and government-run programs.

- The approval of 15 Federally Qualified Health Care Centers in communities throughout the state.
- The establishment of the Detroit-Wayne County Health Authority to help find ways to provide efficient and quality health care for thousands of residents in Southeast Michigan who are under-insured or who have no insurance.
- The MiRx Card, a prescription drug discount card program to help lower prescription drug costs for some of Michigan's one million uninsured projects.
- Protected Michigan's children from lead poisoning by signing into law legislation that increased screening and the processing of test results.
- Increased efforts to reduce the infant mortality rates in Michigan.
- Addressed health disparities in Michigan by increasing awareness of what people of color can do to engage in a healthy lifestyle and make healthy choices.
- Appointed Michigan's first Surgeon General to revitalize public health in Michigan, develop health policy, and address the healthcare crisis in urban and distressed communities.

CULTIVATING THE MINORITY ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Michigan is home to more than 35,000 minority-owned firms. Governor Granholm recognizes that the many contributions of minority business owners spur economic and community development in Michigan. An important step in growing our economy is the cultivation of entrepreneurs. The Governor's goal has been to attract and grow businesses by instilling in our citizens the importance of imagining their potential to be their own boss, innovator and producer of wealth and jobs. As we move toward making Michigan the economic powerhouse of the 21st century, Governor Granholm is committed to making certain the minority entrepreneurial spirit continues to produce new businesses, new products, and innovation.

Highlights include:

- Minority-owned businesses were awarded \$144 million in state contracts in 2005, compared to \$98 million in 2002, a 47 percent increase since Governor Granholm took office.
- African American businesses were awarded \$179.8 million in state contracts in 2005, compared to \$28.5 million in 2002, a 631 percent increase.
- Overall Detroit businesses were awarded \$1.7 billion in contracts in 2005, compared to \$629 million in 2002, a 168 percent increase.

- A new website was launched to help entrepreneurs start and grow businesses in Michigan.
- A new Minority Business Development Events Calendar was created to highlight networking opportunities, entrepreneurship awards and celebrations.
- A highly successful entrepreneurship and curriculum development model that includes the award of 15 entrepreneurship curriculum development grants totaling more than \$1 million. These grants resulted in 266 new programs involving high schools and community colleges and two statewide conferences on entrepreneurship education.

IMPROVING REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

To jump start Michigan's economy, Governor Granholm accelerated ten years of public infrastructure projects into a three-year period. Her \$3.8 billion Jobs Today initiative put tens of thousands of Michigan citizens to work rebuilding roads and bridges. In 2006, the Governor expanded the Jobs Today initiative by providing funds to put local road improvement projects on a fast track. The Governor is also a strong proponent of mass transit for our urban areas and will work closely with regional business and community leaders to enhance our regional mass transit systems. This will include an aggressive effort to increase the amount of federal funding for mass transit in Michigan. The endeavor now underway to create a rail link between Ann Arbor and downtown Detroit is a great example of what can happen when we combine federal transit resources with regional cooperation and planning.

Highlights include:

- As part of the \$1.16 billion road and bridge repairs in her Jobs Today initiative, the Governor is providing state dollars to help local communities obtain (up to \$400 million) federal matching dollars to fund local transportation projects. The Governor's program marks the first time state dollars are being used to fund city and county transportation projects.
- Invested more than \$402 million in Detroit to fix dangerous bridges, roads, and highways. MDOT's "Fix the Six" program will upgrade the main corridors in the Detroit area including projects on I-75, I-94, I-96, I-696, M-10 and M-39.
- Accelerated more than \$14 million in road projects, including \$10 million to repair the Lodge Freeway (M-10) from I-696 to downtown Detroit.
- Accelerated more than \$17 million in road and bridge improvements throughout the Benton Harbor–St. Joseph area, including providing more than \$5.6 million to

repair US-12 in Berrien County and \$1.4 million to repair the I-94 Business Loop in St. Joseph.

- Invested more than \$64 million repairing roads throughout the Grand Rapids area, including more than \$20 million to repair parts of I-96 and an additional \$18 million to repair sections of US-131.
- Invested more than \$61 million repairing bridges throughout the Grand Rapids area since 2003, including repairing more than 20 bridges on I-196.